

WNC Open Studios Tour

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of craftsmen in the Black Mountain/Old Fort area, including Steve Miller (turned wood), Sarah Vekasi (pottery), Dan and Tekla Howachyn (forged metal and sculpture), Marianne Shepardson (fused glass) and Maggie Jones (ceramics), as well as visual artists Lorelle Bacon, Helen and John Sullivan, Nancy Hoopes, Anne Bevan, Marilyn Owens and Barbara Frohmader.

Rounding out our studios in Buncombe County are Matt Jones (pottery), Teena Tuenge (handweaving), Local Cloth (fabric, yarn, etc), Bernie Rowell (painted/sewn tapestries), LeeAnn Petropoulos (mosaics) and Cathy Gerson (ceramics).

Photos of all the artists' work, their bios and personal links are posted on our website. The downloadable event guide also has a short statement about each artist's creative direction.



Work by Bob Neely

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings or visit (www.wncopenstudios.com).

Penland School of Crafts in Penland, NC, Features Works by Cristina Córdova & Christina Boy

The Penland School of Crafts in Penland, NC, is presenting *Cerca y Lejos*, featuring works by ceramic sculptor Cristina Córdova, on view in the Penland Gallery, through Nov. 20, 2016 and *Christina Boy - Wood*, on view in the Focus Gallery, through Oct. 23, 2016. A reception will be held on Oct. 1, from 4:30-6:30pm.

The work of ceramic sculptor Cristina Córdova has always been concerned with the human form: the figure and the face, gesture and expression. Her upcoming show at the Penland Gallery - her first solo exhibition in the US since 2011 - will present two- and three-dimensional images of her family members along with elements that evoke her native Puerto Rico.

At the center of the exhibition are two life-size, standing ceramic figures: one depicts her husband and the other depicts one of their daughters. The figures stand in front of wall-sized photographs of Puerto Rico that were taken from Internet sources and are presented as photo mosaics. Along with these dioramas are five large portraits of members of Córdova's family.

Drawn on paper using clay slip and other materials, the oversized faces look directly and unflinchingly at the viewer. The show's title means "near and far" and refers to the proximity of the artist's family and the distance of her homeland.

In talking about this work, Córdova notes that for her it represents a turn toward naturalism. "My work has been described in the past as having to do with surrealism and religious iconography. In this more overtly personal work, I am using images of real places and modeling real individuals."



Cristina Córdova, "Arturo", clay and mixed-media drawing, 82 x 60 inches

Gremlay says of the show, "For an artist whose work is both sensory and confrontational, the opportunity to work with an entire exhibition space is ideal: she can



Cristina Córdova working on a ceramic sculpture for her Penland Gallery exhibition.

move fluidly from wall to floor, she can study the light and create works accordingly, she can force perspective, and creative narrative groupings without regard to conventional gallery norms." Taken as a whole, the exhibition creates a form of silent theater that illuminates one artist's exploration of her personal and cultural identity.

Córdova, who grew up in Puerto Rico and now lives and works near Penland School of Crafts in Mitchell County, NC, has an MFA in ceramics from Alfred University in New York. She has received a North Carolina Arts Council fellowship, a Virginia A. Groot Foundation grant, and the prestigious United States Artists fellowship. Her work is in the collections of the Renwick Gallery of the Smithsonian American Art Museum in DC, the Mint Museum in Charlotte, NC, and the Museum of Contemporary Art in Puerto Rico and was recently featured on the cover of *Ceramics Monthly* magazine. She was a Penland resident artist from 2002-2005 and has taught at the school several times.

This exhibition is an opportunity to visit the recently renovated and expanded Penland Gallery, which is also featuring functional pieces by woodworker Christina Boy in the Focus Gallery and site-specific installations by Christina Shmigel and Laurencia Strauss. Also on view are large, outdoor sculptures by Hoss Haley and Bill Brown, Jr. The gallery sales area represents hundreds of artists who are affiliated with the school. And the Visitors Center Gallery has an ongoing display of objects that represent Penland's history.

The Penland Gallery and Visitors Center is located on Conley Ridge Road, just off of Penland Road in Mitchell County

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(near the town of Spruce Pine). It is the first building on your right as you enter the Penland campus.

Penland School of Crafts is a national center for craft education dedicated to helping people live creative lives. Located in Western North Carolina, Penland offers workshops in books and paper, clay, drawing and painting, glass, iron, metals, printmaking and letterpress, photography, textiles, and wood. The school also sponsors artists' residencies, an outreach program, and a gallery and visitors center. Penland is a nonprofit, tax-exempt institution which receives support from the North Carolina Arts Council, an agency funded by the State of North Carolina and the National Endowment for the Arts, which believes that a great nation deserves great art.

On view in Penland's Focus Gallery, through Oct. 23 is the exhibit *Christina Boy - Wood*.

Christina Boy Design is a one-woman shop located at the foothills of the Blue Ridge mountains in Madison, Virginia. Original pieces are designed and handmade from domestic, locally sourced, and salvaged woods. Close attention is paid to every detail using both traditional and

modern techniques to craft a piece that she hopes will be in your family for many generations.

Originally from Germany, Christina Boy attended the Craft and Material Studies program at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, Virginia. After completing her BFA in 2007 she continued and expanded her studies with a two-year Core fellowship at Penland School.

After returning to Virginia, Boy built a studio with the help of her father-in-law and husband in 2011, and is now a full time studio artist. Although she works with all kinds of locally sourced lumber and wood she particularly enjoys working with salvaged articles: old windows, barn wood, tractor seats, etc. converting them into something completely different and beautiful. "All these pieces carry and tell their own story," Boy explains, "and saving these from the impending doom of the dump and converting them into something fresh and new gives me the opportunity to write another chapter in its story."

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the gallery at 828/765-6211 or visit (www.penland.org/gallery).

Spruce Pine Potters Market Takes Place in Spruce Pine, NC - Oct. 8 & 9, 2016

This year's Spruce Pine Potters Market will be open Oct. 8 and 9, 2016, from 10am to 5pm, each day in the Cross Street Building, 31 Cross Street, Spruce Pine, NC. The work of 34 ceramic artists will be on display and for sale. Admission and parking are free. Lunches will be available for purchase.

The Market is celebrating its tenth year of providing a premier shopping venue for the work of artists who are known regionally, nationally and internationally, including Stan Andersen, Will Baker, Cynthia Bringle, Pam Brewer, John Britt, Melisa Cadell, Naomi Dalglish/Michael Hunt (Bandana Pottery), Claudia Dunaway, Jon Ellenbogen/Becky Plummer (Barking Spider Pottery), Susan Feagin, Terry Gess, Becky Gray, Shawn Ireland, Lisa Joerling, Nick Joerling, Michael Kline, Kent McLaughlin, Shane Mickey, Shaunna Lyons, Jeannine Marchand, Courtney Martin, Linda McFarling, Jane Peiser, Teresa Pietsch, Michael Rutkowsky, Valerie Schnauffer, Ken Sedberry, Jenny Lou Sherburne, Ron Slagle, Gay Smith, Liz Zlot Summerfield, and Joy Tanner.

Cynthia Bringle and Jane Peiser have been honored as North Carolina Living Treasures. Work includes functional pottery, figurative sculpture, stoneware, earthenware, and more.

Although this region is known for its concentration of artists featured during the Toe River Arts Council's biannual



Work by Jenny Lou Sherburne

open-studio tours, the Spruce Pine Potters Market offers buyers the opportunity to see new work from leading artists in one location. According to exhibiting potter Jon Ellenbogen "these artists bring the privacy of their studios to a group setting and invite the world in for a visit." For the artists, too, this is a chance to meet their patrons, see each other's new work, and visit with colleagues.

Admission to the Market is free, but visitors are encouraged to purchase raffle tickets for work donated by four of the artists. This year, those artists are Jon Ellenbogen/Becky Plummer (Barking Spider Pottery), Courtney Martin, Jane Peiser and Michael Kline. A portion of the raffle proceeds will go to the Toe River Arts Council.

For further information check our NC Commercial Gallery listings, call 828/765-2670 or visit (www.sprucepinepottersmarket.com).

Toe River Arts Council in Burnsville, NC, Features Works by Joe Gottlieb

The Toe River Arts Council in Burnsville, NC, will present *Since Last We Met*, featuring works by Joe Gottlieb, on view in the Burnsville TRAC Gallery, from Oct. 1 through Nov. 12, 2016. A reception will be held on Oct. 14, from 5-7pm.

To say that Joe Gottlieb is a mixed media artist is understating the complexity of his current body of work. *Since Last We Met* displays the creative enterprise of a man who, almost ten years ago, realized that his over three decades of woodcarving were over.

"After I did my last show in 2007, time put an end to my days as a woodcarver," says Gottlieb. "But I had spent over 35 years making images in wood, felt I had done some good work, and thought that it was alright, that I could lay it down now. It wasn't long before I began to suspect that I was mistaken. And when I finally accepted that, although finished as a carver, I was definitely not done making images. I began to cast about for a new way."

Gottlieb takes found objects, puts them together, embosses, covers, coats, paints; they are small enough to hold in one's



Work by Joe Gottlieb

hand, large enough to tower on a pedestal, hang on the wall. Evocative and intriguing, almost mysterious, these figures he calls "Bound Objects" will stimulate the senses with a curiosity that will take you around and around each just to "figure" it

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